**RESULTS**

Seventeen people were asked their opinions about group homes for troubled teenagers and what they believed to be true about adolescents in ‘out-of-home care’ in the U.S. For the purpose of this research, **three survey questions were generated and the results are as follows:**

The first question was, **“How important, on a scale from one to five, are group homes for troubled teenagers?”** (one being not very important and five being the most important). When asked this, most people **(35.30%)** ranked group homes for troubled teenagers as the highest importance; meaning they ranked it as five.

Secondly, the survey asked, **“On any given** **day, how many children are in ‘out-of home care’ in the U.S.?”** (the multiple choice answers included: (a) fewer than 100,000; (b) 250,000; (c) 325,000; (d) 400,000; and (e) more than 500,000). When inquired about this piece of information, none **(0.00%)** of the respondents gave the correct response. According to **www.childrensrights.org**, approximately 400,000 children are in this type of system, each day.

9 "Facts About Foster Care." *Childrens Rights RSS*.

The final question, **“How much, on a scale from 1 to 5, do you think labeling teenagers as “worthless” affects how they view themselves and the amount of help they seek?”** This question regarded Labeling Theory and the corresponding effects; **88.20%** believe that labeling teenagers can definitely change the way they view themselves and re-think getting some assistance for their problems (whether they be social, behavioral, physical, etc.)

These findings built off of the actual effects these stereotypes have on teenagers. They also conveyed how much people don’t understand, in regards to troubled teenagers. These results are not very surprising, for the most part. They confirm that there is a correlation between society members caring and their lack of knowledge.

Based on the third question of the survey, which was about labeling and its affects, one can realize that labeling teenagers with a negative connotation will reflect within individuals. Teenagers could become withdrawn from society, depressed, resort to drug use or alcoholism, and many other issues faced by our society’s adolescents.

One can interpret from this short survey’s outcome that society remains ignorant to adolescent issues. Society needs to comprehend the actual amount of teenagers that need help in order to be able to understand how much more help should be offered and how to treat them. Show them respect and support versus rejection and contempt.

**a**

The opposite effect could be used here to make a positive difference in these teenagers’ circumstances. This means, motivate them through positive comments but this does not mean to just “label” them in a different way. Just encourage them, but not their behavior. Let them know that society supports their (and their families’) decision to gain some help from an outside source, like a group home for troubled teenagers.

The outcome of this short survey reflects that society clearly cares about the teenagers that are in group homes and/or need the help that group homes and other out-of home care can provide. If the explanations and way group homes address individual issues, regarding the teenagers themselves, are tailored to be understandable by all groups of people, then the awareness of this issue, of labeling those teenagers, needs to be handled in the same manner. Besides, how can people stop this behavior if they don’t realize there is something wrong with way they are behaving towards these teenagers?